RE. STATEMENT TO BE MADE BY HOME MINISTER

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI M. M. JACOB) ; Madam Deputy Chairman, as per your suggestion, I had discussions with the Home Minister about the possibility of making the statement earlier. Collecting of information and getting the statement prepared would take some more time. So the earliest opportunity for the Home Minister to come make the statement is said to be at 4.30 p.m. We are making every effort to speed it up, if possible. But 4.30 p.m. is the indication. Madam, when we are making a statement here, we are also compelled to give both English and Hindi versions of it. Naturally, that also takes some more time. So 4.30 p.m. is the earliest indicated time. If the hon. Members on the other side express their desire to meet the President et 5 O' clock, we can make the statement even after that. It is left to your discretion, Madam.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : If the statement is made at 4.30 p.m., then the hon. Members from the Opposition would not be able to seek clarifications as it will take some time tor that. I would rather suggest that it be made at 6 p.m. Let them meet the President and come back. I think it may not be possible at 4.30 p.m. In the meantime, we will have a word with them. If they agree for 4.30 p.m., well and good. Otherwise, we will have it at 6 p.m. Now, the statutory resolution seeking disapproval of the Benami Transactions (Prohibition of the right to Recover Property) Ordinance, 1988 and the Benami Transactions (Prohibition) Bill, 1988 will be taken up together.

BENAMI TRANSACTIONS (PROHIBITION) BILL 1988

SHRI JASWANT SINGH (Rajasthan) : Madam Deputy Chairman, with profound respect to you and to the House and to the hon. Minister who has prepared for this, my motion of disapproval will be now rendered farcical. I choose, therefore, with respect to you and to the House again, not to move.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN : The resolution is not moved. Mr. Minister.

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE AND THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI B. SHANKARANAND) : Madam Deputy Chairman, I beg to move :

"That the Bill to prohibit *benami* transactions and the right to recover property held *benami* and for matters connected therewith or incidental thereto, be taken into consideration."

As the House is aware, the President promulgated the Benami Transactions (Prohibition of the Right to Recover Property) Ordinance, 1988, on 19th May 1988. The Bil! seeks to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission contained in its 57th report. Athough the Government has taken some time to implement the recommendations of the Law Commission, the Government felt that this was the most opportune time for bringing out such a legislation. The Ordinance evoked mixed response from the press, public and the Bar. While some sections congratulated the Government on making a beginning in the law of *benami* transactions, there was some criticism that the Ordinance had not gone very far to achieve the object, that is to say, prevention of proli-